Chinese suggestions for border adjustment

258. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has suggested for border adjustment and has desired that India should make substantial adjustment in the eastern sector, including returning the Buddhist enclave Tawang' to China, to reach an early settelement of the border issue;

(b) whether the former Chinese Ambassador to India and current advisor to the Chinese Foreign Ministery has pointed out that China would never accept 'McMahon line' and India must make substantial adjustment in the eastern sector;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government; and

(d) whether there still exists certain point of difference between China and India on the border issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometers of Indian territory including Tawang in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. According to a report in The Statesman' dated 1 November 2007, the former Chinese Ambassador to India. Mr. Zhou Gang reportedly said, "As the Chinese people would never accept 'McMahon Line,' India must make substantial adjustment in the Eastern sector." The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India has been conveyed by Government to the Chinse side.

(d) Indian territory under the occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called "China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh and about 2000 sq. kms. in the Middle Sector of the India-China boundary. The Special Representatives of India and China are presently seeking a framework for settlement of the boundary question that is fair, reasonable, mutually acceptable and based on the agreement on Guiding Principles and Political Parameters signed in April 2005.

Manuscripts of'Rigveda'

t259. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has included manuscripts of'Rigveda' in the special heritage list, recently;

(b) whether Government has a copy of this manuscript;

(c) the features of said preserved manuscript; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. UNESCO has inscribed the manuscripts *Rigyedasmhita, Rigvedasamhita-Padapatha* and *Rigvedasamhitabhashya* on the Memory of the World Rigester in June 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.